Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News

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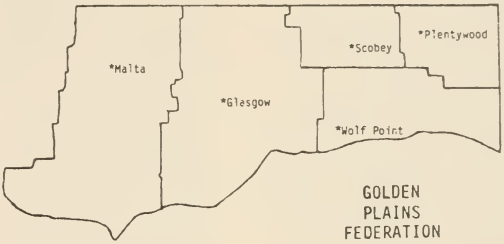
GOLDCAT



The Goldcat project to input the holdings of the Golden Plains Federation into the database of the Western Library Network (WLN) is now showing its benefits for the five principle libraries of the Federation. The efficiency of the federation's interlibrary loan is showing improvement as records from those libraries appear in the WLN Resource Directory and the Moncat Supplement. An LSCA recon project, Goldcat includes Daniels County Free Library, Scobey; Phillips County Library, Malta; Roosevelt County Library, Wolf Point; Sheridan County Free Library, Plentywood; and the Glasgow City-County Library. As Roberta Green, librarian at Phillips County Library says, "We're seeing more books for less bucks." Green reports that she is now often able to obtain the items users want closer to Malta. Janice Sand of Roosevelt County Library says she was very excited to see a portion of her library's holdings on the 1986 WLN Resource Directory. "Interlibrary loans have increased as turnaround time for requests has decreased," she reports.

Several steps have been followed as the 5 libraries built Goldcat. Collections were first inventoried, then weeded to determine what items were appropriate for inclusion. Correct LC card numbers were then located for the items. In the Golden Plains Federation, Apple microcomputers were used to store each record. The records, stored on floppy discs, were then sent to the WLN computer in Pullman, Washington. In July of 1985, when the first holdings were submitted to WLN, nearly 23,000 records from Golden Plains were added to the database. As of June 1986, the libraries are closing in on their goal of having over 60,000 items added to WLN.

Though the process of preparing a library's holdings for the WLN database is a time-consuming task -- Jenny Reinhardt, office manager in Glasgow, reports her staff worked for several months before the first records were input -- the benefits are great. Librarians in Golden Plains say that in preparing their collections for the computer, they greatly increased their familiarity with their own library's resources. In addition, because Golden Plains planned Goldcat as a group project, the librarians' knowledge of all libraries in the Federation improved. "It has been a combined effort," Jenny Reinhardt of Glasgow reports. Goldcat has also brought an increased computer awareness to the Federation and increased interest in the potential of CD-Rom technology for their libraries.

The last of the LSCA grant funds for Goldcat were distributed at the end of 1985. The libraries in the Federation plan to continue to add each year's new acquisitions to WLN. The success of Goldcat, now beginning to prove its worth, is a credit to all libraries in the Golden Plains Federation.

COMMISSION MEETING

The Montana State Library Commission held its bi-monthly meeting at the MLA Conference in Kalispell. The Commission awarded $40,784 in FY 1987 LSCA Title I and III funds to the Great Falls Public Library for recon membership in the Western Library Network. It approved $78,000 in other LSCA funds to develop a pilot program to demonstrate the effectiveness of CD-Rom technology for Montana libraries. This funding would provide for a public and a school library in each of the state's six federations, plus one academic and one special library, to receive the Western Library Network database on CD-Rom technology (laser discs used with a reader and a microcomputer). It also provides funds for retrospective conversion for participating libraries. The third LSCA grant fund priority was $12,000 for collection development workshops.

LSCA Title II construction development grants were awarded by the Commission to the Hamilton Public Library ($79,958) for remodeling and handicapped access, to the Polson City Library ($46,800) for the construction of a new building and to the Clancy Memorial Library in Ennis ($27,429) for shelving and a new children's center.

The Commission unanimously accepted the new criteria in the RFP for the Multitype Library Project. It discussed the question of interlibrary loan fees being implemented and considered by member libraries of the Montana University System. Because of the concerns of federation librarians, it postponed until July final action on a proposed change in the administrative rule pertaining to the funding allocation of the Coal Severance Tax. A progress report was made on the public relations campaign for Montana libraries. State Librarian Sara Parker reported on the affect a 5% FY 1987 budget cut would have on the State Library. It was announced that Noreen Alldredge and Martha Davis have been reappointed for second 3-year appointments on the Commission.

KELLOGG PROJECT

Karen Locke of Eureka has been chosen coordinator of the Lincoln County Information and Education Center in Libby. Lucille Gordon of the Hamilton Public Library reports that a coordinator for the center there will be selected in June. The centers are part of a 4-year, 4-state library-based pilot program designed to improve the delivery of educational and and informational services in rural areas. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation funds the project with Montana State University and the Montana State Library as partners with the local communities. The Hamilton and Libby Centers are scheduled to open in the fall.

MLA

The 73rd annual conference of the Montana Library Association was held in Kalispell on April 30 through May 3. The wide variety of pre-conference and continuing education workshops were attended by over 300 registrants. Co-chairs Kay (Sassi) Forden and Patricia Jarvi are to be commended for their efforts. The June issue of the Montana Library Association's newsletter will carry a detailed report of conference proceedings.

AROUND THE STATE

The Bozeman Public Library was presented the Celebrate Literacy Award by the Big Sky Reading Council on April 28th. The library was noted for its work with children, rural schools, and service to day-care and preschools. Of special note is the library's special collection of materials used by local reading tutors and checked out on an honor system basis.

Joyce Hoffman has been hired as bookmobile services coordinator at the Miles City Public Library for the coming school year. The bookmobile serves 17 rural schools in five eastern Montana counties.

The Lewis & Clark Library, Helena, now has a dial-in port for their computer system. Library users may now search the library's title index on their home computers. For further information contact Jim Heckel at the library (442-2010).

Students of Belt, Montana Elementary earned a helium balloon for reading a specified amount of books during "Carried Away with Reading" month in April. 1,800 balloons, carrying a student's name and the school address, were released at a celebration in early May.

A needs assessment of the Missoula Public Library is being coordinated by Mary Trankel, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Montana. Volunteers and library staff are conducting the survey that will be used in part to determine the future direction of the library.

At its May meeting in Kalispell, the State Library Commission appointed three new Montana Library Services Advisory Council members. Karen Morsette of Rocky Boy was named to represent library services to the disadvantaged. Evelyn Casterline of Culbertson was named to represent users of libraries in the Golden Plains Federation. Sandy Short was named to represent users of libraries in the Sagebrush Federation.

Jan Wingenroth has resigned her position as a reference and interlibrary loan librarian at Carroll College to accept a job at the Gonzaga University Library in Spokane, Washington. Megan Fite has accepted a position as cataloger at Carroll College. She was previously librarian at Isabel Bills Elementary School in Colstrip.

There have been several changes in Montana libraries. Gordon Hills has resigned as director of the Blackfeet Community College Library to further his education in Seattle. Sue Morrison has retired as librarian of the Sidney Public Library. Sylvia Minton has resigned her position as library director of the Glasgow City-County Library. Christine Lee has resigned as extension-circulation librarian at the Great Falls Public Library.

The Golden Plains Federation held a week-long collection assessment program in May. Under the direction of LIRN trainer, Mary Bushing, Golden Plains librarians visited every library in the federation, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each site and coordinating planning for collection development in Golden Plains.

Nadine Langan, circulation clerk at the Montana State Library, has retired after 16 years of service. Diana Halverson is her replacement. Kathy Smith has joined the State Library staff as an accounting technician and Jean DeGroat has become an administrative secretary. Accountant Kathy Burton has joined the State Library staff on a temporary contract to strengthen the library's financial management.

Margaret Webster is now the librarian at the Crowley Law Firm in Billings.

The Great Falls Public Library has received a $10,000 grant from the Cordingley Foundation for adult programming in the library.

Sister Margaret LaPorte has retired from the Health Sciences Library at Columbus Hospital, Great Falls. The new librarian is Lou Wilmot with Barbara Bruno as assistant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the Special Legislative Session and for budgetary reasons, the June and August meetings of the Montana State Library Commission are being combined into one meeting to be held July 29 in Miles City.

To reflect changes in its collection development policy, the State Library is exploring ways of divesting itself of portions of its collection. Holdings in religion, literature, cooking, biographies and Montana fiction are among the areas affected. Libraries interested in obtaining these collections must be willing to add holdings to WLN and to loan these materials to other libraries in the state. For further information, contact Harold Chambers at the State Library.

Copies of Montana Authors: a bibliography are available direct and by prepayment ($5.00) from: Karen Hatcher, University of Montana, Mansfield Library, Missoula MT 59812.

The University of Washington Graduate School of Library and Information Science is offering Continuing Education courses for librarians. For information, contact: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Washington, 133 Suzzallo Library, FM-30, Seattle, WA 98195; (206) 543-1794.

The Montana State Library is compiling a list of all children's librarians working in public libraries in Montana. If your library has a librarian that works in the children's section at least one-fourth of the time, please contact Howard Morris at the State Library.

Anyone interested in attending the Pacific Northwest Library Association Conference in Vancouver, B.C. (August 13-15, 1986) can still obtain registration information from Jane Howell at the Eastern Montana College Library in Billings. Phone: 657-1660.

What Works: Research About Teaching and Learning, a report recently published by the U.S. Department of Education, will be of interest to school librarians. Copies of the report are available from the Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

The Indexing Special Interest Group of the Montana Library Association is in the process of completing a Montana Historical and Genealogical Data Index. For further information on the project contact: Paulette Parpart, Western Montana Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 2714, Missoula, MT 59806.

The Office of Public Instruction Audiovisual Library has available for purchase two videos on copyright. The videos, specifically geared for educators faced with copyright questions, will be available in late June at $25 each from OPI. For further information, contact Margy Rolando in Helena at 442-3170.

A videotape of the LIRN Assessment and Conspectus Database Program is available on loan from the State Library (VHS, 1/2"). The ten-minute tape is suitable for library staff and trustees working with the LIRN program.

The Multitype Library Project is available from the State Library. The project is designed to to create public awareness of the importance and the benefits of multitype library cooperation. For further information and for a copy of the RFP, write Sheila Cates at the State Library.

Copies of Federal Grants for Library and Information Services: A Selective Guide are available for $5.00 and a self-addressed mailing label from the ALA Washington Office, 110 Maryland Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

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